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FANTASY

MATURE READERS

Ninja Katmandu

ANTARCTIC BLAST
MARCH 1995

... no pickles, though

Two bundles of joy were recently delivered to us here at the Antarctic Press. The first, **Ashley Elizabeth Dunn**, arrived on February 8, making proud parents of our big boss **Joe Dunn** and his wife, **Teresa Johnson**. In spite of taking after her father in looks, she's a beautiful child, and everyone who sees her is immediately smitten by her charms.

The second bundle showed up February 15, an offspring of our accountant: the 1994 financial statements of Antarctic Press. They gave ample cause for enthusiasm. Our 1994 **sales revenues** were up over **250%** from 1993, showing just how quickly we've been growing. While expenses have gone up at the same time (or else I'd be asking for a 250% salary increase!), the overall direction of the company was strongly up, in a year fraught with trouble for many other publishers, including several major publishing demises. We must be doing something right.

If we continue to prosper as a company, Ashley Elizabeth will grow up surrounded by comic books. She'll be constantly exposed to their bright colors, fanciful stories and imaginative art . . . not to mention knowing first-hand all the fascinating people it takes to run an enterprise like this. I sure hope it doesn't warp her too much.

Herb Mallette

Editor in Chief

WARNING: SHAMELESS PLUG ZONE!

THIS IS A COMMERCIAL VENTURE: ALL SENSITIVE-TYPES STAY AWAY. PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE BOMBARDMENT OF A HYPE-KIND.

YOU *HAVE* BEEN WARNED.

"Private Beach: Fun and Perils in the Tradyverse is this year's Sleeper Hit Comic..."
AP Wiseguy

"...and, when in the neighborhood, pick up a copy of Carole Curtis' **Katmanda**... with gorgeous art by Terrie Smith and Mark Barnard..."

GOLD DIGGER
... simply the most fun comic since you were a kid. Bar none."

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases*
*subject to change

- ☐ Gold Digger Trade Paperback Vol.1
- ☐ Gold Digger Trade Paperback Vol.2
- ☐ Gold Digger Magazine Special
- ☐ F-III Bandit#2
- ☐ Private Beach #2
- ☐ Ninja High School #45
- ☐ Dodekain #5
- ☐ Mangazine #38
- ☐ Knightmare #5
- ☐ Katmandu #4
- ☐ Konny and Czu #4
- ☐ Shanda #8
- ☐ Tigers of Terra #9
- ☐ Furrlough #27
- ☐ Hitomi: Geohammer #8
- ☐ Battle Binder Plus #5 (Venus)
- ☐ Cheeta Pop #4(Venus)
- ☐ Genus #11 (Venus)
- ☐ Bondage Fairies #6 (Venus, 2nd)
- ☐ A-Bomb #6 (Venus)

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Ki Katmandu

WOMAN of HONOR

STORY...CAROLE CURTIS

PENCILS...TERRIE SMITH

INKS...MARK BARNARD

READY TO MAKE CAMP, LEAH?

MORE THAN READY! OUR KITTENS HAVE REALLY BEEN KICKING!

DO YOUR HEALER'S SKILLS TELL YOU HOW MANY ARE COMING?

HMM -- I THINK WE'LL GET TWO ANYWAY, THORIN.

DON'T FORGET. TONIGHT I COOK AND YOU TELL THE STORY.

MY! THAT PROMOTION WENT TO YOUR HEAD. DON'T FORGET I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR SOLDIERS.

NOT MUCH CHANCE OF THAT!

HMMM. MY PARENTS LIKED YOU. WONDER WHAT YOUR BROTHERS WILL SAY?

THEY'D BETTER LIKE YOU, OR I'LL BOX THEIR EARS!

NOW TELL ME A STORY, WHILE I COOK DINNER.

CLACK

CLACK

VERY WELL. THIS STORY HAS COME DOWN THROUGH MY FAMILY LINE. IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE WE MADE CONTACT WITH THE HOPLITES.

IT WAS IN THE PLAINS REGION, AND A GROUP OF CHILDREN WERE AT PLAY...

MARKREE! DON'T PLAY SO ROUGHLY WITH THE YOUNGER KITTENS!

AW, LISKA! THEY HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT SOMETIME!

DID MY SON HAVE A GOOD MEAL, LISKA?

HE ATE LIKE THERE WAS NO BOTTOM TO THE GOURD, AUNT DERONDA. IS THE VILLAGE SUPPER READY?

ALMOST. THANKS FOR WATCHING THE CHILDREN.

IS THAT A STORM ON THE HORIZON?

NOOO...

SLOW DOWN, RIAL! THAT FARMING VILLAGE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE!

QUIET, PYNDAN! I WANT TO GET DINNER FOR MY GRANDMOTHER BEFORE THEIR MEN COME FROM THE FIELDS!

MARKREE! GRAB A KITTEN AND RUN! IT'S HIGHLAND RAIDERS!!

HA! SOUP FOR TONIGHT! RIAL, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

COME ON, TORI! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

LITTLE ONE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I THINK MY GRANDMOTHER COULD USE SOME HELP AT HER CAMPFIRE.

MARKREE! TAKE TORI AND RUN AWAY!

HA-HA-HA! RIAL, BEATEN BY A GIRL!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S BEATEN!

MY GRANDMOTHER CAN USE A SPIRITED SLAVE LIKE YOU, GIRL!

DINNER AND A SLAVE! I'M IMPRESSED!

DAMN! QUIT BITING, GIRL!

COME BACK HERE!

COME BACK WITH MY SISTER!

ONE YEAR LATER...

SOUP'S TOO THICK! GO FETCH SOME WATER, GIRL!

YES, MISTRESS.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A DISGRACE? RIAL SHOULD CLOTHE THAT SLAVE! HER SHIFT IS SO SHORT YOU CAN SEE HER PRIVATES!

PERHAPS THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T GIVE HER NEW CLOTHES. SHE'S OF AN AGE FOR BREEDING.

WELL, WHAT'S A BREEDER CARRYING WATER FOR?

OH! SORRY, SLAVE. BUT IT'S NOT A WASTE! I WAS DOWNWIND OF YOU...I ASSUME YOU WERE GOING TO BATHE?

RIAL! COME OVER HERE!

LOOKS LIKE KEBEC'S ABOUT TO SEE YOUR SLAVE'S TEMPER.

HUH! GOOD THING ONLY I CAN PUNISH HER. LET'S WATCH.

I CARRIED THAT BAG OF WATER ALL THE WAY FROM THE STREAM! NOW MISTRESS SANNA WILL BE UPSET --

AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

RIAL! PULL YOUR LOWLANDER SLAVE OFF KEBEC!

ON MY WAY!

PITY TO BREAK THIS UP. IT'S SUCH A NICE VIEW! LET HER GO, LISKA.

COME ON, LISKA. WHAT STARTED THIS?

THAT HIGHLAND BITCH KICKED MY WATER BAG! NOW SANNA WILL BE ANGRY WITH ME!

I'LL SPEAK TO HER. GO REFILL YOUR BAG.

RIAL, THAT LOWLAND SLAVE OF YOURS HAS TO BE DISCIPLINED!! SHE'S TOO IRRITABLE!

OH? AND WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND I DO?

SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BREED! MAYBE THAT WOULD CALM HER DOWN!

SO KEBEC THINKS YOU SHOULD MAKE LISKA A BED SLAVE? NOT A BAD IDEA...

YEAH.

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT HER LATELY? SHE'S GOT WIDE HIPS -- GOOD FOR CHILDREN. HEALTHY SIZED BREASTS. SHE'S NOT BAD LOOKING, EITHER. I'D TAKE HER IN A HEARTBEAT!

AND I STILL REMEMBER HOW HARD SHE HIT YOU THAT FIRST DAY. THINK HOW MUCH SPIRIT YOUR KITS WOULD HAVE!

MAYBE SO. I'LL SPEAK TO SANNA ABOUT IT.

YOU'RE EARLY. SOUP'S NOT READY YET, RIAL.

UM...I DIDN'T COME FOR SOUP, GRANDMOTHER. I'M THINKING ABOUT LISKA -- FOR A BED SLAVE.

AH-HA! I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D THINK OF HER IN THAT WAY.

SHE'S SPIRITED. I SAW HER FIGHTING WITH KEBEC, AFTER SHE KICKED HER. SHE FOUGHT YOU ENOUGH.

UH-HUH.

NOW, SHOO! DINNER COMES LATE. I HAVE TO TALK TO LISKA -- ABOUT HER NEW PLACE.

SORRY THE WATER'S LATE, MISTRESS SANNA.

I KNOW WHY IT'S LATE, GIRL. COME IN AND SIT DOWN. WE NEED TO TALK.

YOU ARE RESPECTFUL, LISKA. YOU WEREN'T ALWAYS. WHEN RIAL BROUGHT YOU HERE, YOU WERE WILD.

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO ACT?

MY BROTHER AND I HAD LOST OUR PARENTS THE YEAR BEFORE. THEN I LOST MARKREE. I HAVE NO IDEA IF HE IS DEAD OR ALIVE. HE IS ALL THE FAMILY I HAVE.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU CAME HERE. YOU'RE NOT A KITTEN ANYMORE. I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AS A COMPANION FOR RIAL.

WHAT KIND OF "COMPANION?"

A BED SLAVE. THEN YOU WOULD HAVE KITS OF YOUR OWN, AND I DON'T WANT TO DIE WITHOUT SEEING GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN AT MY CAMPFIRE!

LISKA, I LIKE YOU. YOU WOULD MAKE A GOOD MATE FOR RIAL.

MISTRESS SANNA, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS...

THEN IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED. RIAL CAN EAT WITH PYNDAN, AT HIS FIRE, TONIGHT. FETCH ME THE BAG FROM THE LARGE BASKET.

THESE ARE SHURINAR STONES! THERE IS ONE FOR EACH DAY OF THE LUNAR CYCLE. YOU START WITH THIS ONE -- WHEN YOUR WOMANS' TIME COMES. WHEN THAT COLOR IS GONE, YOU CHANGE TO THIS COLOR, TO TELL WHEN YOU ARE MOST FERTILE...

PYNDAN! GA'MA SAYS RIAL EATS WITH US, TONIGHT!

REALLY, LITTLE SISTER?

AN' RIAL, SHE SAYS TO COME BACK TO HER TENT AT MOON RISE. SAYS YOU'LL KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

OH-HO! I THINK I KNOW, TOO!

I'M TOO NERVOUS TO EAT...

HA HA HA!

I'M SO NERVOUS, MISTRESS SANNA. ALL THESE NEW THINGS I'M SUPPOSED TO KNOW AND REMEMBER...

PSHAW! WHAT'S THERE TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT? I WAS YOUR AGE WITH MY FIRST MATE.

WILL HE...WILL RIAL BE NICER TO ME, NOW THAT OUR...RELATIONSHIP HAS CHANGED?

HMMPH! HE'D BETTER BE!

IF YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSONS PROPERLY, HE'LL BE YOUR SLAVE!

THAT MOON LOOKS PRETTY HIGH TO ME, RIAL. ISN'T IT TIME TO GO TO YOUR TENT?

WITH MY GRANDMOTHER THERE? ARE YOU CRAZY?

RIAL? LET'S GO FOR A WALK.

RIAL, SHE'S SCARED. THIS GIRL LOST HER FAMILY TWICE. SHE IS YOUR PROPERTY, BUT SHE'S ALSO YOUR FAMILY, BECAUSE SHE'S YOUR SLAVE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, GRANDMOTHER?

IF SHE WAS OF OUR TRIBE, I'D MAKE YOU WED HER! I'M GOING TO YOUR COUSIN'S TENT FOR THE NIGHT.

YOU...LOOK NICE, LISKA.

THANK YOU.

TOMORROW, YOU PUT UP A TENT FOR TWO.

MISTRESS SANNA SAYS I WOULD NORMALLY FIX YOU A MEAL, BUT WE'VE BOTH EATEN...

HERE, I'LL ROLL OUT THE BEDDING.

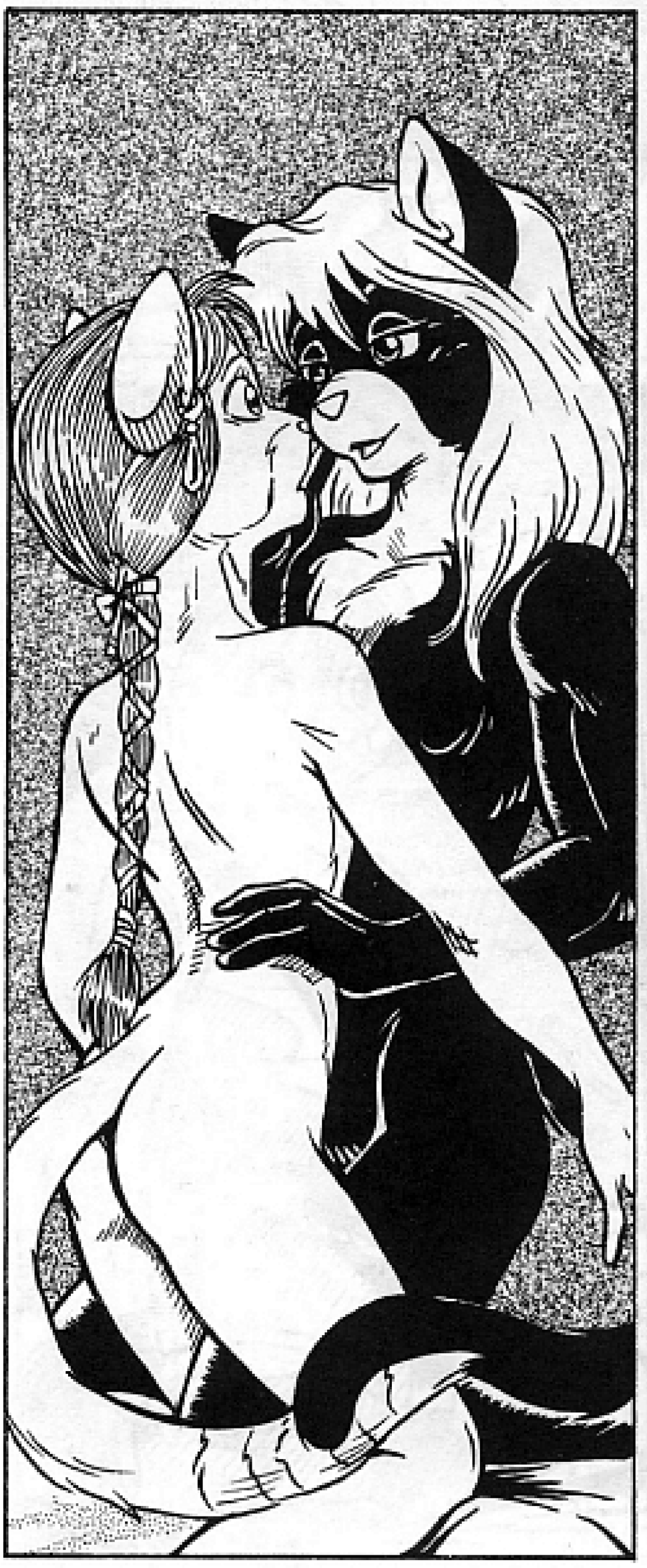
LOOK, LISKA. WHY DON'T WE PUT OUT THE LIGHT? I THINK WE'LL BOTH FEEL BETTER.

WHY AREN'T YOU CHANGING, LISKA?

MISTRESS SANNA WAS VERY SPECIFIC ABOUT THAT.

SHE SAID IF I DISROBED IN YOUR SIGHT...

...YOU WOULD FIND ME DESIRABLE. WAS SHE RIGHT?



YOU'RE STOPPING THE STORY THERE?

THORIN -- THESE KITTENS NEED ME TO GO TO SLEEP! I CAN TELL YOU MORE TOMORROW.

BUT YOU LEFT OUT AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE STORY.

OH?

YES. TELL ME ABOUT THIS "BED SLAVE" TRAINING.

IT'S VERY COMPLICATED, BUT YOU'RE PICKING IT UP QUICKLY. I'D RECOMMEND YOU.

REALLY?

YES. NOW OUR CHILDREN WANT YOU TO PET THEM, WHILE YOUR BED SLAVE GOES TO SLEEP.

LEAHTRAH, YOU WILL FINISH THE STORY TOMORROW...? THIS BED SLAVE TALE IS GETTING INTERESTING!

TO BE CONTINUED

STORY-CATHY CARTER

ART-MICHELE LIGHT INKS-MARK BARNARD

KATMANDU

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!

OH WISE HELIOS, KING OF THE TRICKSTERS!

WHAT MAY I DO TO PLEASE YOU?

OH, I DON'T KNOW, FELITTA. WHY DON'T YOU JUST SIT THERE AND LOOK PRETTY?

OKAY!

DRAT THIS TICKLING IN MY EAR! IT'S ANOTHER OF THOSE PESKY MORTALS BELOW, WITH A PROBLEM.

FELITTA?

MAY I PLEASE?

WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK...

AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.

THEATRE

SOLD OUT

LOOK, LORD HELIOS! THE BEAUTIFUL ESMERELDA IS PERFORMING AT THAT THEATER!

THE OTHER VESTAL MAIDENS AND I WERE DISCUSSING HER WONDERFUL VOICE AND BEAUTY, YESTERDAY.

OH?

SOLD OUT

SIGH!

IT'S THAT MAN THERE!

THE SUITOR WITH THE FAT PURSE! **HIS** PLEA IS TICKLING MY EAR!

I SUPPOSE I MUST DO SOMETHING.

OH, SHE'S COMING OUT.

STAGE DOOR

EMPLOYEES ONLY

THAT'S OK. I'LL SEE MYSELF HOME.

OOPS!

STAGE DOOR

EES LY

WHOA

OH! THANK YOU, KIND SIR, FOR CATCHING ME. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

ZORTAN, MOST ENCHANTING LADY.

SUCH STRONG ARMS AND FINE CLOTHES! WOULD YOU BE FREE FOR A LATE DINNER?

YES, MY LADY!

OH, LORD HELIOS! REMEMBER THE BEAUTIFUL ESMERELDA AND HER CAPTAIN ZORTAN?

DO I **HAVE** TO, FELITTA?

WEEKS LATER...

LOOK! THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED TODAY!

EEP!

UNDER THE LAWS OF THE VELITE NATION, I PRONOUNCE YOU UNITED IN MARRIAGE.

YOU MAY KISS YOUR BRIDE, CAPTAIN!

NOW, LET'S GET HIM!

OH, NO, CAPTAIN! NO WEDDING KISS FOR YOU!

COME, ESMERELDA. WE'LL MAKE YOUR MARITAL BED READY.

BUT... GENERAL...

ESMERELDA!

THE BARS AWAIT US!

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, DARLING.

DID YOU DO THAT?

IT'S CRUEL!

NOW, NOW, FELITA...

THEY'LL HAVE THEIR WEDDING NIGHT! EVEN I WOULDN'T DENY THE CAPTAIN HIS LOVELY ESMERELDA!

YOU'D BEST NOT!

FINALLY! IT'S BEEN **HOURS** *HIC*

HIC

NOW TO MY LOVELY ESMER... *HIC* ...ELDA

STAGGER

DRAG DRAG

HO!

WHAT MANNER OF BEAST IS THIS?

NO! IT'S **TWO** BEASTS!

COURAGE, ESMERELDA! **I'LL** SAVE YOU!

HIC

ZORTAN? LET ME LIGHT A CANDLE!

WHAT KIND OF STUFF IS THIS?

ZORTAN?

WHAT IS IT, MY HUSBAND?

ACK!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, WOMAN...

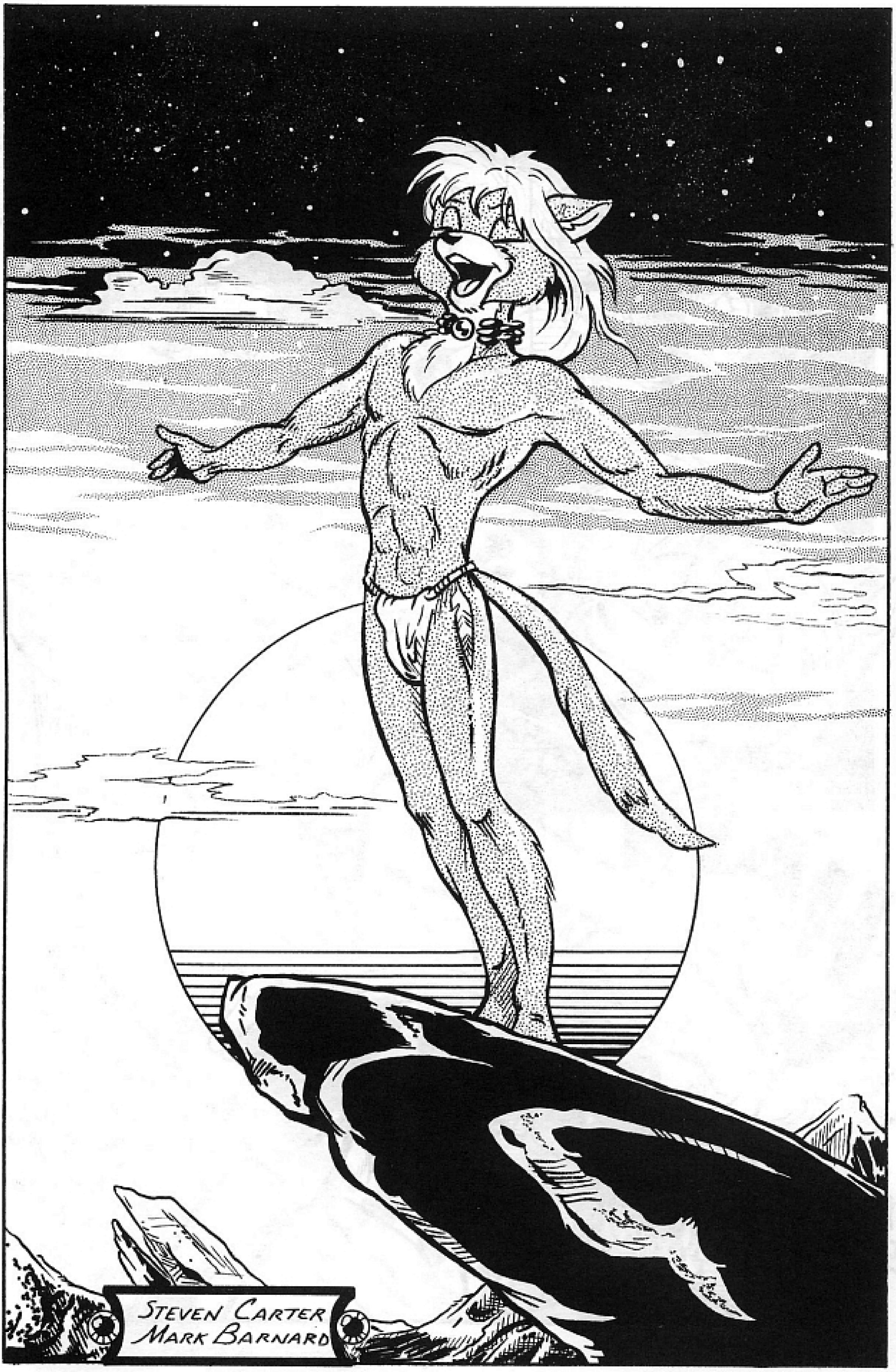
SING!

HA

HA

BWA HA HA HA

I DON'T KNOW WHY I **STAY** WITH YOU, LORD HELIOS!


STEVEN CARTER
MARK BARNARD

Ed Garcia

RAMADU

From The Scratching Post

Katmandu
P.O. Box 2452
Conway
Arkansas 72032

Team KATMANDU; Carole Curtis 🗁 Terrie Smith 🗁 Mark Barnard 🗁 Michele Light 🗁 Lord Rees

From Carole;

Just a brief note to thank some special people I met at Confurance 6 in January. Mike's letter follows this, & is running in both KATMANDU & SHANDA.

Many thanks to Thom who bought us breakfast on that 1st bewildering Friday (He actually started out just leading us to the I-HOP) and then saved us on Saturday by going to get lunch. You were a gracious host.

I also got to meet Norman Fabian, a wonderful conversationalist who has volunteered (very little arm twisting involved) to be a consultant as needed on Falconry, EMT, & Law Enforcement.

One of my favorites though was Carol Osman. Besides sharing a name, we also share an interest in Barbie dolls, collectibles, & old movies. She's the lady who makes the keychains mentioned in the next letter.

Daphne Lage & Jose Calderon were great. I enjoyed visiting with them on the shuttle (run by Mark Merlino - Thanks Sweetie!) from LAX to Irvine, even though we were all to busy at the Con for much else. (Mike and I got 19 hours sleep - total - in 5 days!)

A final thanks to the lady with whom I discussed Maine Coon Cats - She knows why! - to Ted Sheppard, I still love the 'stache! and to Bernard Doove of Australia. See Y'all @ Confurance 7!

Carole

From Mike;

We have some new merchandise available (for those who can't get enough of rare pandas or cats.)

Keyrings $3.50 P&H included. Wooden titles of KATMANDU, NAUTILUS & SHANDA available.

Ashcans $5.00 KATMANDU & NAUTILUS CONFURANCE 6 Editions. Signed by all participating parties. Limited run of 500.

SHANDA: THE XXX FILES $5.00 each. Issues 1 & 2 available.

SHANDA'S WORLD: $7.00 each. A 44 page book with background texts, model sheets, unseen art & scripts!

When ordering please add $1.00 P&H per item (except SHANDA'S WORLD - $2.00) and send to the above address.

-Shep
Ted Sheppard
Stosstrupp

Mike & Carole;

Hope this gets to you before you move, but if not, I'm sure it will catch up eventually. Anyways, I've had a chance to read SHANDA 3 and KATMANDU 1 & 2 and I wanted to tell you that I liked them very much.

Carole, I admire the talent that can create not only characters and stories, but entire cultures. Bravo!

By the way, I offer my services as a 'military advisor' if you need it. I'm pretty good at designing fictious military equipment.

Philip M. Cohen
White Plains
New York

Katmandu #3 - a rousing finale to a FINE STORY. It's hard to say what makes this story so satisfying, but Leahtrah's resourcefulness and the expressive faces

certainly contribute a lot. The wedding panel on p. 21 is beautiful, but I think my favorite is the final one. 'I still do not like you very much.' Oh, yes! And a pleasant backup story.

Always carry a grapefruit,

Robert Deighton
East Yorkshire
England

31st May, 1994

Greetings Terrie;

Yep, the issues of "Katmandu" got here with no trouble from H.M. Customs & Thought Control, especially no. 2 being an 'Adults Only' one. Your art is as super as ever, particularly with Mark Barnard's inks, and the sort of legendary character design we've come to expect. A well thought out story from Carole Curtis with art to match - and not only by you, but also from Michele Light, with her illustrating the support stories. I must say the '18-Rated' scenes in no. 2 were tastefully done. Ah, the innocent joys of shared passion - especially if its furry! I'd certainly like to see what no. 3's like.

15th November 1994

"Katmandu" gets better by the issue as well. I can appreciate how much Carole Curtis has thought out the whole scenario, which - no doubt others will be inspired to contribute to such - as some have done with their individual illos. in past issues. And your artwork so precisely inked by Mark Barnard has certainly set the standard.

All three of you have created a believable scenario with credible three-dimensional characters. An enjoyable storyline too, and I particularly liked the double twist at the end in which the event which brings together Leahtrah & Thorin ultimately saves them from a nasty fate after their capture (heh, from that one to a much nicer one!) I've also enjoyed the extra stories (this one by Cathy Carter especially) illustrated by Michele Light. Her felines fit the scenario so well!! (I've been impressed by her art in "Shanda the Panda.")

This was a two-part missive from a British fan of Terrie Smith. It's wonderful to see how her art is appreciated.

Carole

Kim Fletcher
Minneapolis MN

Carole;

You sent me some preview pages of Katmandu #4. Thank you, what seems to come through is a sense of social game (or social protection) for the captive.

This seems to be a very formalized & restrained form of captivity. Romantic, with a captive danger in the far background.

Page 11 almost doesn't need dialog, with what's gone before (I want to hear that dialog anyway!) Arrow is male, Bow is female: Comment from buddy that "he'd better see to stretching his bow." Those top 2 panels are about as good as you can get - he's aiming from panel one to panel two - in panel two they're both aiming at her.

The whole water bag thing is good too. She's trusted to get water - she's defending the water in the waterbag (no matter what the dialog may say.) She's going and getting more water. So last panel captor-guy stops by to talk to mom - dressed in his going-courting clothes? Water - drink or symbol? You decide. (Maybe she went to get fermented cactus juice for mom - I don't know!)

Good stuff! Take a cross-genre risk & send copies of Katmandu to comics like Action Girl.

Jimmy Hines
West Monroe LA

I loved Katmandu. I read the chapters out of sequence (my retailer went through a reorganization with her distributor), having issue #2 long before #1 and #3 and I still loved the story. Normally if I miss an issue the book's dead - I just don't care enough to keep up with it. It requires a rare gem like *Katmandu*, where the story is *really* a story, and a strong one, to capture my interest and hold it prisoner for the duration.

Issue #1 opened with a bang (literally.) We find that, for a healer, Leatrah certainly knows how to defend herself. I got the feeling through the whole story that the Velites are not a "technology" people. Knives and swords instead of guns; racing lizards not vehicles. Int'r'sting. She is definitely a level-headed woman. The bottom panel of pg. 3 and pages 4-5 set her character very well in a short space. She is strong, survival-orientated, witness to so much death already to be steeled against it - yet sensitive enough to realize "so many dead -- for no real reason!" Then to discover her friend is among the dead. In one panel this condensed the horror of war - it is not enemies who die; it is fathers, sons, brothers, mothers, daughters, sisters.

Thorin certainly knows how to "capture" a girls attention (booo.) Isn't Thorin lucky to have found (been found by) a trained healer - and one who wants to ventilate his esophagus for him! At least at the top of pg. 8 she's doing her best to stitch their relationship together (making your skin crawl.) Ahh... one wonders what those rocks had to do with her appointment in Klaresh.

See everyone next issue.

Carole

AFTER WAR, BEFORE PEACE

TWILIGHT X

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